

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's Office Action of May 14, 2007 the Applicant respectfully submits the accompanying Amendment of the claims and the below Remarks.

Regarding Amendment

In the Amendment:

independent claim 1 is amended to omit "a series of" from "a series of at least one intermediate entity" at line 2, to replace "the current" with --a current-- at line 5, and to replace "the next" with --a next-- at line 7; and

dependent claims 2-25 are unchanged.

It is respectfully submitted that the Amendment does not add any new matter to the present application.

Regarding 35 UCC, second paragraph Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the above-described amendments of claim 1 provide sufficient antecedent basis and clarity in the claim.

Regarding 35 USC 102(e) and 103(a) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of pending (and amended) independent claim 1, and claims 2-25 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed or suggested by Wiegley (US 6,711,677) either taken alone or in view of Schneier, for at least the following reasons.

Pending (and amended) independent claim 1 clearly recites that the series of entities along which the validated information is passed includes a source entity, at least one intermediate entity and a target entity, and in steps (a)-(f) it is clearly recited that verification of the information is carried out in each of these source, intermediate and target entities. Thus, in the minimum configuration of the series of entities of the claimed invention, verification is carried out in three entities.

On the other hand, Wiegley merely discloses a system for secure printing which includes a printer 10 interconnected with a computer 12. The printer has a print engine 20 connected to a controller 22 which includes firmware 34 modified to implement the security steps, and the computer has a printer driver 18 which is modified to implement the security steps (see col. 3, lines 30-61).

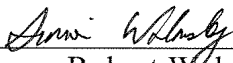
Wiegley does not disclose, or suggest, that any other component of the system is also used to implement the security steps. Therefore, Wiegley only discloses two entities in which security steps are performed, not at least three entities as is required by independent claim 1, and claims 2-25 dependent therefrom.

Further, Schneier does not provide any disclosure which would motivate one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the disclosed arrangement of Wiegley, and therefore no combination of Wiegley and Schneier provides the method of pending (and amended) claims 1-25.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

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